

Message Text

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SUBJ: ARRANGEMENTS FOR OCTOBER MEETING OF EGYPT-US JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL

REF: STATE 199607

1. AHMED TEWFIQ, MINECON REP, AND EMBOFF HAVE DISCUSSED WITH SHERATON HOTEL SALES MANAGER QUESTION OF CONFERENCE AND LUNCHEON FACILITIES FOR JBC CAIRO MEETING. SHERATON FACILITIES, ALTHOUGH NOT IDEAL, APPEAR ADEQUATE FOR PURPOSE, AND EGYPTIAN PLANNERS NOW CONTEMPLATE MAKING USE OF THEM.

2. EMBASSY HAS ALSO MADE PRELIMINARY INQUIRY AT AUC, INDICATIONS ARE THAT MEETING HALL (OF AUDITORIUM TYPE) MAY BE AVAILABLE, BUT LUNCHEON FACILITIES SOMETHING OF A PROBLEM. IF AUC SITE DEEMED DESIRABLE, CATERED LUNCHEON OR ONE HELD OUTSIDE UNIVERSITY ARE POSSIBILITIES. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, AUC WILL BE IN SESSION AT TIME OF JBC MEETING.

3. ON BASIS OF HAVING OFFERED ADEQUATE FACILITIES, SHERATON APPARENTLY EXPECTS MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS BE HELD THERE, ALTHOUGH NO FIRM COMMITMENT TO DO SO HAS BEEN MADE. AT PRESENT, SHERATON HAS CONFIRMED ONLY 35 OF 55 ROOMS NEEDED FOR AMERICAN ATTENDEES. SHERATON SALES MANAGER SAYS HE IS

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 14198 261203Z

SEEKING THE ADDITIONAL 20 ROOMS, BUT INDICATES HIS EFFORTS WOULD BE SPURRED BY DECISION TO HOLD EVENING FUNCTIONS, AS WELL AS LUNCHEONS, AT HOTEL. IF MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS ARE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER LOCATION AND EVENING FUNCTIONS ALSO HELD OUTSIDE HOTEL, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE REASONABLE EXPECT TO HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR NEEDED 20 ROOMS. THIS MIGHT BE NECESSARY IN ANY CASE, SINCE HOTEL

SALES MANAGER INDICATED HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THE ADDITIONAL 20 ROOMS EVEN IF ALL FUNCTIONS WERE HELD AT HOTEL. FOR WHATEVER IT IS WORTH, MINECON REP SAYS HE BELIEVES ADDITIONAL 20 ROOMS CAN BE FOUND AT MERIDIEN IF NECESSARY.

4. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER BREWER WISHES US TO PURSUE AUC POSSIBILITIES, ASK EGYPTIANS TO DO SO, OR FOLLOW SHERATON OPTION.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: JBC INQUIRY ABOUT REASONS FOR POSSIBLE ABSENCE OF SAYEH SEEMS A BIT UNFELICITOUSLY WORDED. WHILE INQUIRY UNDERSTANDABLE IN TERMS OF ESSENTIAL ROLE WHICH MINISTRY OF ECONOMY PLAYS IN OVERALL JBC CONCERNS, IMPORTANT PART WHICH SAYEH PERSONALLY HAS RECENTLY HAD IN DEALING WITH JBC AFFAIRS, SAYEGH CLEARLY HAS RIGHT TO ABSENT HIMSELF IF OFFICIAL OR PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS DICTATE. IN THIS INSTANCE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SAYEH PLANS GO TO CANADA AFTER IMF/IBRD MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON TO VISIT MARRIED DAUGHTER THERE AND HIS PRESENCE IN CAIRO AT TIME OF JBC MEETING IS THEREFORE NOT CERTAIN. AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN TOLD, THAT SHOULD SAYEH NOT BE PRESENT FOR MEETING, DEPPRIMIN QAYSUNI WILL PARTICIPATE IN HIS STEAD. NO OBJECTION PASSING THIS TO BREWER. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
EILTS

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